



George  
**LeMieux**  
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

## E- NEWSLETTER

May 6, 2010

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#) , [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov>

### **Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill**

I am greatly concerned about the ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The magnitude of the spill has the potential to become an environmental as well as an economic disaster.



Monday, I joined the Coast Guard and other responding agencies for briefings and then a flyover of the spill area. We saw clumps of tar floating near the wellhead site and large slicks of oil covering an expansive area. I cannot overstate the need for urgency and priority in capping the well.

A Web site has been established for citizens to receive up-to-date information on the event at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>. Individuals are also asked to report any suspected wildlife damage by calling 866-557-1401.

Our number one priority needs to be stopping the oil spill from becoming larger. It threatens the environment; it threatens our economy; and it must be stopped. Whether the federal government or British Petroleum has responded to this crisis appropriately is an issue that will be sorted out through the various investigations that are already underway. Casting blame can wait; stopping the damage from becoming worse is a matter of paramount importance.



### **Jobs Advisory Council**

As part of my effort to help Floridians find jobs, I recently announced the creation of a statewide [Jobs and Business Development Advisory Council](#). The 12-person council consists of seasoned professionals and community leaders from throughout Florida. These members are tasked with suggesting ways to help Floridians get back to work and create new opportunities for business owners. [Click here to meet the Council Members](#)

Our office will host periodic meetings and conference calls with the council and seek their advice on job and business resources. Through sharing ideas, solutions, and creative approaches to business development concerns, our office will be able to better assist Floridians find jobs, create jobs and increase their incomes.

Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. Through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work. If you are seeking employment or opportunities to expand your business, please consider attending one of [our upcoming events](#)

Upcoming job events:

[Palm Beach County Workforce Summit 2010](#) - Friday, May 7, 2010

[Job and Community Resource Fair](#) - Tuesday, May 11, 2010

[Statewide Job Fair - University of Central Florida](#) - Thursday, May 13 2010

### **Dangerous Ties Between Venezuela and Iran**

This week, Iran's President came to the U.S. to address members of the United Nations. I joined an effort to deny President Ahmadinejad a visa to enter the United States, or at a minimum, restrict his movement while he attends the UN conference.

Iran, under Ahmadinejad's leadership, has a documented history of threatening the interests and security of the United States and our allies. Iran has formed an alliance with Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and together, they are trying to undermine democracies in the region and they pose a real threat to the United States. Click on the video below to hear more on the need for the U.S. to keep a close eye on this situation.



### **Promoting America's National Parks**

Our national parks showcase the raw beauty of America. In total, the National Park Service has approximately 80 million acres of land and manages 391 designated federal sites throughout the country. These treasured parks serve as tourist destinations, sources of job creation and other economic benefits for states and local communities.



Last week, I co-chaired a Senate Competitiveness, Innovation and Export Promotion Subcommittee hearing promoting our national parks as travel destinations. By increasing tourism at national parks, we educate generations on the importance of protecting the environment and help surrounding communities survive difficult economic times.

Countless visitors to Florida's Everglades National Park, the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States, have left with a better understanding of its significance. Those who have seen the River of Grass understand the importance of preserving this national treasure, and working toward its restoration.

Tourism in our national parks brings in regional revenues. For every dollar spent in the national parks, another 50 cents is generated in surrounding communities. In 2008, tourists made approximately 275 million park visits, accounting for \$11.6 billion of spending in gateway communities. Additionally, National Parks are estimated to create more than 230,000 jobs.

I look forward to Congress's continued work examining ways to increase partnerships with local governments and businesses and finding ways to help increase this important sector of tourism. [Click here to learn more about our efforts](#)

### **Miami Dade College Commencement**

Last Saturday, I had the honor and pleasure of delivering the commencement address at the Miami Dade College Homestead campus. The bright, young men and women coming out of college right now will face fascinating challenges in their careers. I encouraged students to commit to a lifetime of learning and dedicate a portion of their daily routine to giving back to their communities.



It is my hope Florida will continue to develop our consortium of colleges and universities. A robust university system is essential to rebuilding a better and stronger economy.

### **Casework Corner**

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently, a constituent tried several times to contact the U.S. Department of State for help in obtaining his father's death record. The constituent's father had served as an Army contractor during the Vietnam War, and was killed in 1968, just outside of Saigon. Frustrated at finding no answers, the constituent contacted our office.

Our office contacted the State Department to inquire about retrieving such records. At the suggestion of department officials, our office contacted personnel in the Passport Office of Vital Records Division. Working with members of the Vital Records Division, our office determined that the National Archives and Records Administration housed the record requested by the constituent. Our office subsequently asked for a copy of the death record, and the constituent received it by mail shortly thereafter.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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